

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Toby Strout, Christine Glaser, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Cynthia Shultz, Bob Bent, Kent Berglund, Dave Rollo, Jim Sherman

Regrets: Steve Ashkin, Jeff Mease

Staff Present: Adam Wason, Ricardo Hernandez

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The February meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections. John Hamilton added that the previous months minutes were well written.

Public Comment

Steve Forest spoke about the Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduction plan and would like to see a working document and plan to achieve the targets set out in the US Mayor's Climate Protection agreement. He feels as though Bloomington should look at ways to increase public transportation subsidies as well as an overall reform to transportation.

Paul Schneller offered to assist with the Sustainability Assessment Report.

John Hamilton responded that all BCOS subcommittee meetings are open to the public.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Committee

Adam Wason stated that both Francie Gary and Jacob Mazer, City Interns, are looking into software to track emissions reductions for the City. Adam handed out documents on what programs can be accomplishable for the City of Bloomington. This will assist in the information of making a greenhouse gases inventory. Kent Berglund offered to assist in evaluating the various software programs to be considered. There is a proposal to create a rating scale on the impact and how expensive it costs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Walkable Communities Presentation

This presentation is a prelude to an overall transportation initiative on how to lower Green House Gas Emissions and Peak Oil Issues while also addressing social and economic issues.

Some examples of change would include: integrate all of the current transportation plans under one plan, create City Department of Transportation, narrowing automobile lanes to width of 9 feet, making one way streets into two way streets, removal of car lanes and installing medians, building forward design, instituting maximum parking requirements instead of minimum.

Questions Comments

Jim Sherman feel that it is unnecessary for new IU parking Lot. City keeps encouraging cars. Boulder, CO is a good example. Bloomington is the worst city for getting a cross at a cross walk. Yield and pedestrian signs like in New Zealand are good examples.

Dave Rollo stated that downtown metering will help less traffic but may hurt business. Maximum parking requirements is an idea. The Planning Department updates to the Unified Development Ordinance is supposed to revisit a standard subdivision design.

George Huntington was confused about one slide concerning street parking and the width of the streets. Christine responded that parking facing outward will be safer for bikers and for awareness.

Toby Strout stated that a significant disadvantage is that trucks will not be able to deliver on the streets if narrowed, but maybe it will offer for more local produce, etc. She also stated that gentrification is a problem with pushing people further and further outward.

John Hamilton said that we need to be relentless and rigorous about this mission. We should ask “How do we achieve it?” If we keep attracting more visitors than does gas emissions go up? We need to be careful about what we measure. We need to have a good sense about what kind of reduction we will have.

Staff Report

Adam spoke about Team Green projects and that Public Works intern Jessica Miller is researching renewable energy purchasing programs and grant opportunities. They are going to work with Duke Energy to look at Street light inventory. There are two new grant programs. There is one for public light inventory and the other for green collared job initiatives. City Council gave approval for County Resident Inclusion for the Commission in a 7-2 vote.

City Administration made a final decision that the logo will be City seal with Commission of Sustainability under it. This is because the Sustainability Commission would have been the only commission to have their own logo in the City. BCOS stated that the planned use of the logo is to “sponsor” and “endorse” community events.

Questions and Announcements

Committee Reports:

- There are five members, and three new ones.
- Sustainability assessment report: Toby and Steve are on that. They are planning to meet the week after Spring Break.
- Initiatives Committee Report. Has a meeting scheduled next Monday.

Presentation on CFL's

Board will be displayed in the Atrium about Change a Light, Change the World. The board focuses on putting 40,000 CFL's in the community. Bloomingfoods ordered 8,660 bulbs. Energy Star has statistical data on CFL purchases, and Bloomington suspects that they have underestimated the amount of CFL's that are in the community. There are three large retail stores, and they would not state how many CFL's they sold. They are not being cooperative. Adam estimates that there are 40,000 bulbs already in the community. One bulb is equivalent to planting 90 trees in carbon emissions. There are questions about the bulbs. They aren't instant and they burn out fast.

It is important to have another CFL push that not only focuses on distribution, but also recycling, and mercury warnings.

Announcements

- There are discussions with the Utility Department if Commissions would like to weigh in on issues.
- Initiatives committee is discussing if utilities can discuss to consumers what amount they are using...more or less.
- City does not have affordable housing convents: Goes away in 15 years. Banks across the country to 30 years.
- Bus system: Idea of Free Bus System. Look into Charlottesville project of free busing for a month.
- George: Earth Hour on Mar. 29th. Indiana and businesses around the world are going to turn their lights off for an hour at 8pm.
- Jim: 5 Star Energy rating in house. There should be info for people on how they could reduce energy. There is an energy conservation spot on website.
- Dave Rollo: Community Chat at Village Deli 18th at 7:30
Task Force meeting tomorrow at 6pm at City Hall to discuss peak oil.
Figure out how much it costs to build your house and save on energy bill.
- Adam: Proposes another research project on what uses for recyclables are out there. Save the packets on the CFL to get money back.

Next meeting April 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30